

'Tis season when gifts make cents

By Roger Boye

Today's column answers more questions from Chicago Tribune readers.

Q—Some magazines are offering gift subscriptions this holiday season. Are there any specials available on coin publications? My 10-year-old son has started a collection and wants to learn more.

D.D., Evanston

A—The weekly newspaper Numismatic News is charging \$9.95 for a 26-issue subscription that begins with the first edition after Christmas. (A regular one-year subscription runs \$27.95.) Your son also would get—for free—a 1992 coin wall calendar, which costs \$5.95 if bought separately. Write to Krause Publications, 700 E. State St., Iola, Wis. 54990.

Coin World, the other weekly coin newspaper, is selling 52-issue gift subscriptions for \$15 each if you buy one subscription at the regular price of \$26. Write to Coin World, 911 Vandemark Road, Sidney, Ohio 45365, or call, toll-free, 1-800-253-4555.

The monthly Coinage magazine (P.O. Box 6925, Ventura, Calif. 93006) offers a \$17.95 gift rate for 12 issues, reduced from the regular price of \$23.

All three publications will send the recipient a card describing the gift.

Q—Please send me the name of a good, honest numismatic person in the southern suburbs, someone you trust. I need to have my old coins examined.

M.B., Midlothian

A—Sorry, but I don't recommend the names of specific coin dealers or collectors who do appraisals. Nor do I serve as a go-between for persons wanting to buy or sell coins.

Many of the dozens of coin dealers in the Chicago area would



A 1992 coin calendar comes free with a subscription to the weekly Numismatic News.

be willing to examine your lot. Check the Yellow Pages of the phone book for names and addresses, but realize that some dealers will charge a fee to evaluate a large hoard. You might pay a percentage of the total appraised value (say 3 to 7 percent) or an hourly rate.

I'll estimate the value of your items if you send me a list of their denominations, dates, mint marks (if any) and condition. Write to me at the Chicago Tribune, Room 400, 435 N. Michigan Ave., Chicago, Ill. 60611.

Q—Some metal on the "heads side" of my 1988 quarter is missing, and this has exposed part of the coin's copper core. Could it be valuable? Is there a book that describes such odd-looking coins?

B.N., Chicago

A—Your quarter might be worth \$5 or more to a collector of error coins, assuming the problem is the result of an innocent minting mistake called "partially unclad planchet." A quarter missing all of its front-side "clad layer" also would rate a special collectible.